9 – 3 Graph Rational Functions

rational function $f(x)=\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$, where p and q are polynomial functions

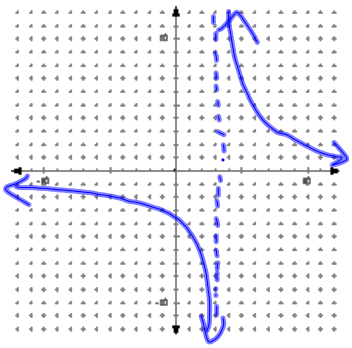
EX: $f(x)=\frac{3}{x-2}$ $g(x)=\frac{x+2}{x^2-4}$ $h(x)=\frac{x^2+4x-12}{x^2+2x-3}$

vertical asymptote (infinite discontinuity) – if the rational expression of a function is in simplest form and the function is undefined for **x = a**, **then x = a is a vertical asymptote.**

EX: $f(x)=\frac{2}{x-3}$

$x \neq 3$

$x=3$ asymptote



hole (point discontinuity) - if **x - a** is a factor of the numerator and denominator of a rational function, then there is a hole in the graph at **x = a.**

$f(x)=x-1$

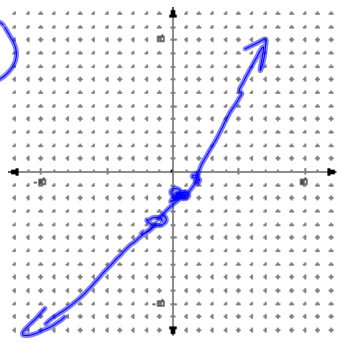
EX: $f(x)=\frac{x^2+x-2}{x+2}$

$\frac{(x-1)(x+2)}{(x+2)}$

$x \neq -2$

hole at $x=-2$

$(-2,-3)$



horizontal asymptote: Given a rational function $f(x)=\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$, where p and q are polynomials:

a) If the degree of p is less than the degree of q, then **y = 0 is a horizontal asymptote.**

N<D

b) If the degree of p, with lead coefficient **a,** is equal to the degree of q, with lead coefficient **b,** then $y=\frac{a}{b}$ **is a horizontal asymptote.**

N=D

c) If the degree of p is greater than the degree of q, then there is **no horizontal asymptote.**

N>D

Examples:

1. $f(x)=\frac{2x}{x+3}$

horizontal $y=2$

no hole

$x=-3$

2. $f(x)=\frac{x+1}{x^2-1}$

$(x+1)(x-1)$

H.A. $y=0$

V.A. $x=1$

$F(x)=\frac{1}{x-1}$

Hole $(-1,-\frac{1}{2})$

3. $f(x)=\frac{x^2+5x+6}{x+1}$

$(x+3)(x+2)$

H.A None

V.A $x=-1$

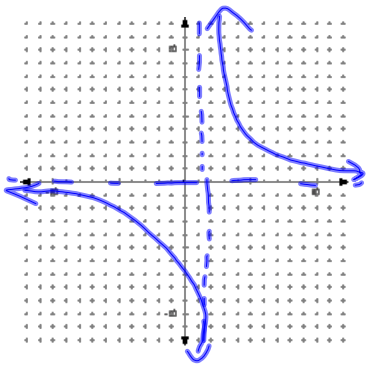
Hole No

1. $f(x)=\frac{3}{x-1}$

HA $y=0$

VA $x=1$

Hole No



2. $f(x)=\frac{x-2}{x^2-4}$

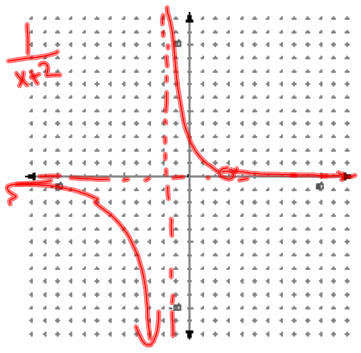
$(x+2)(x-2)$

$\frac{1}{x+2}$

HA $y=0$

V.A. $x=-2$

Hole $(2, \frac{1}{4})$



3. $f(x)=\frac{x^2-1}{x^2-4x+3}$

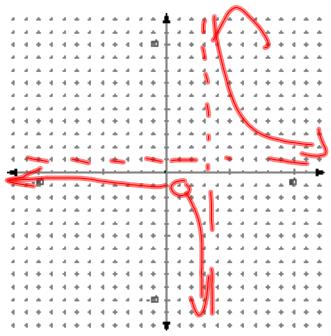
$(x-1)(x+1)$

$(x-3)(x-1)$

H.A. $y=1$

V.A. $x=3$

hole $(1,-1)$



$f(x)=\frac{x+1}{x-3}$ $\frac{1+1}{1-3}=\frac{2}{-2}$

$=-1$

HW
p489
16-21
23, 25, 31,33 Graphs